Sotheby's EST. 1744

LONDON | MITZI MINA | MITZI.MINA@SOTHEBYS.COM | MELICA KHANSARI | MELICA.KHANSARI@SOTHEBYS.COM

PARIS | SOPHIE DUFRESNE | SOPHIE.DUFRESNE@SOTHEBYS.COM

Stepping into a Time Capsule of Royal Grandeur

HÔTEL LAMBERT

A PRINCELY COLLECTION

PARIS
OCTOBER 2022

A First Look at the Treasures Housed in One of Paris' Most Historic Buildings
Unveiled for the First Time Since a Landmark Restoration

Over 1,000 Lots from One of the Finest Private Collections of Classical Works of Art
to be Offered in a Series of Auctions at Sotheby's
Starting in Paris in October 2022

Immersive Rooms in Paris, London, New York & Hong Kong
To Bring the Interiors to Life Virtually for International Audiences

"This spectacular collection will represent a high point of this year's auction calendar. It is unique not only as one of the world's greatest collections, but also because it reminds us that such collections continue to be built today with huge tenacity and curatorial passion for the best objects."

Charles F. Stewart, Sotheby's Chief Executive Officer

"This is truly a collection like no other, bringing together an innate instinct for beauty with a profound and exhaustive knowledge of art history. Stepping through the doors of the Hôtel Lambert, the few lucky witnesses would have been transported to another world that pays homage to the glory of the past, where the very best of each category of decorative arts exists in harmony. Sotheby's has been lucky enough to help tell the story of many of the key chapters of the Hôtel Lambert's illustrious story, from a landmark sale in 1975 in Monaco, to the 2005 offering of the Baron de Redé collection. With the sale of this extraordinary ensemble, the Hôtel Lambert will once again make its mark, not only on the international market, but also on the history of collecting at the highest level."

Mario Tavella, Président, Sotheby's France, Chairman Sotheby's Europe

The Hôtel Lambert, located in the very heart of Paris on Ile Saint-Louis – the magical island known as the pearl of Paris – is renowned as one of the most beautiful private residences in the city. The house was built and decorated in the early 1640s by the giants of arts and architecture who were the masterminds behind Versailles, Louis Le Vau, Charles Le Brun, and Eustache Le Sueur. It was listed as a historical monument in 1862 and has long been regarded as a jewel in Paris' crown. Once home to Voltaire and the Rothschilds, host to Chopin and Delacroix, Princess Grace of Monaco and Elizabeth Taylor, its rich history dates back centuries.

More recently, following a landmark restoration, its intricately decorated walls and gilded ceilings have housed one of the finest private collections of decorative arts ever assembled. Acquired to furnish the Hôtel Lambert, works were chosen with a particular emphasis on provenance, craftsmanship, academic significance and relevance to the heritage of the house.

The selection to be offered at Sotheby's is rich in several extremely important and coherent collections within the ensemble. At the core of the offering is French furniture, with important examples by André-Charles Boulle and Adam Weisweiler. Alongside these sit a magnificent group of French gilt-bronze mounted porcelain vases and a staggering group of porphyry vases, rivalling each other in splendour. The taste for Kunstkammer at its finest is a further significant element of the collection, boasting within it the best of the best of three areas: rock crystal works of art, silverware and vermeil. Hailing from the dedicated room of treasures is a rare collection of Limoges enamels, as well as a sumptuous group of antique jewels and objects of vertu.

The collection boasts objects with illustrious history from the 17th to the 20th centuries; from princes and kings and their consorts, including Madame de Pompadour, Madame du Barry and Queen Marie-Antoinette, to aristocrats and celebrated collectors of the 18th and 19th-century, through to aesthetes of the modern day, such as Hubert de Givenchy, Karl Lagerfeld, Baron de Redé, Count Stroganoff, Richard Wallace, Maria Sert and Antenor Patiño.

Some 1,300 lots will be offered in a series of auctions at Sotheby's, starting in Paris this autumn. Prior to the sales, the public in Paris, London, Hong Kong and New York will be able to experience the magnificence of the interiors of the Hôtel Lambert for the first time, in a series of specially-created immersive digital spaces in Sotheby's galleries.

The Story of the House

The Hôtel Lambert was built in the early 1640s and designed by one of King Louis XIV's favourite architects, Louis Le Vau, for the financier Jean-Baptiste Lambert. Testament to its grandeur, the house featured a gallery by Charles Le Brun, painter of the ceilings of the vaunted Hall of Mirrors at Versailles.

This marked the beginning of a long history of distinguished ownership and impeccable taste. In the 1740s, the Marquise du Châtelet and Voltaire, her lover, used the Hôtel Lambert as their Paris residence, hosting there and launching a famed political salon. Later, the hôtel particulier was bought by the Polish Prince Adam Jerzy Czartoryski, which drew in some of the most notable names in Polish culture, not least the writers George Sand and Honoré de Balzac, and the artist Eugène Delacroix. Chopin was often a guest, and indeed once wrote a letter saying that it was the place he most preferred to play; his famous "La Polonaise" was composed exclusively for the Polish ball held annually at the Hôtel Lambert. In 1975, Guy and Marie-Hélène Rothschild took residence at the mansion, continuing the tradition of hosting international high society and luminaries from the worlds of art and business.

The Hôtel Lambert was acquired in 2007 and underwent a complete and sympathetic restoration supervised by His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Abdullah Al Thani and his immediate family, returning this historic building to its former glory.

The chief architect for the project, Alain-Charles Perrot - who has been the guiding hand for the restoration of many of Paris' landmarks and is now President of the Académie des Beaux-Arts - described the restoration of the Hôtel Lambert as "driven first and foremost by a love of France and a devotion to French heritage, paired with an incredible and exacting attention to detail befitting a building of such historic stature."

Alongside the restoration, the Hôtel Lambert was furnished with exceptional furniture, objects and decorative arts, complementing the building's historical stature and importance. The creation of the interiors was realised through a collaboration with world-renowned interior designer Alberto Pinto, who in many rooms followed in the sumptuous style originally envisaged and conceived by Renzo Mongiardino, hailed by many as the greatest designer of the twentieth century.

The splendour of the restored spaces and the works of art that adorned them have rarely been seen outside of private circles. Now, as ownership of the Hôtel Lambert transfers once more, they are set to be revealed.

Proceeds from the sale will support The Al Thani Collection Foundation, a non-profit organisation whose core mission is to advance and promote art and culture. This objective is principally delivered through public art initiatives including sponsorships, museum projects, the staging of exhibitions, an international loans programme and academic publications – honouring artistic achievement across a rich diversity of cultures.

Further details to be released in due course.

ABOUT SOTHEBY'S

Established in 1744, Sotheby's is the world's premier destination for art and luxury. Sotheby's promotes access to and ownership of exceptional art and luxury objects through auctions and buy-now channels including private sales, e-commerce and retail. Our trusted global marketplace is supported by an industry-leading technology platform and a network of specialists spanning 40 countries and 70 categories which include Contemporary Art, Modern and Impressionist Art, Old Masters, Chinese Works of Art, Jewelry, Watches, Wine and Spirits, and Design, as well as collectible cars and real estate. Sotheby's believes in the transformative power of art and culture and is committed to making our industries more inclusive, sustainable and collaborative.

INSTAGRAM | FACEBOOK | TWITTER | YOUTUBE | LINKEDIN | PINTEREST | WECHAT | WEIBO | YOUKU

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium or overhead premium. Prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer's premium and overhead premium and are net of any fees paid to the purchaser where the purchaser provided an irrevocable bid.*

IMAGES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

Stream live auctions and place bids in real time, discover the value of a work of art, browse sale catalogues, view original content and more at sothebys.com, and by downloading Sotheby's app for IOS and Android.